Dr Bright

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS

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MINERAL SCIENCES DIVISION

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REPORT ON A VISIT TO SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SYRACUSE, N. Y.

by

J. D. Keys

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J. D. Keys*

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On October 18, 1965 the author visited the campus of Syracuse University as a member of the Civil Service Recruiting Team for the purpose of interviewing graduate students who were nearing completion of work toward the Ph. D. degree in the physical sciences and who might be interested in employment with the Canadian government. The other members of the team were Mr. J. P. Woods, Civil Service Commission, Dr. H. Schwartz, Department of Forestry and Mr. A. G. Loughrey, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Interviews are usually arranged by the Placement Secretary, engineering and science placement. Prior to arrival of the team in Syracuse, two students in physical sciences had indicated their interest in an interview with the Canadian Civil Service representatives. These interviews took place as arranged and the remainder of the day was spent in visiting a number of departments where graduate studies in the physical sciences are pursued.

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*J. D. Keys, Head, Mineral Physics Section, Mineral Sciences Division, Mines Branch, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa, Canada.

1. Dept. of Mathematics - Dr. D.E. Kibbey, Chairman.

Dr. Kibbey explained that the main fields of interest in his graduate programs are algebra, group theory and statistical methods. He stated that approximately 48 Ph.D.'s have been graduated in the last twenty years and that most of these have taken up academic positions. This department does not appear to be a potential source of applied mathematicians for Civil Service requirements.

2. Dept. of Electrical Engineering - Dr. Wilbur R. le Page, Chairman.

This department was contacted to assess the possibility of acquiring instrumentation engineers. Professor D.K. Cheng, who has a group investigating microwave antenna design and radiation patterns, said that it was his experience that individuals interested in instrumentation were generally B.Sc. or M.Sc. candidates. He felt that it would be unlikely that anyone from this department would be interested in a career of instrument development.

3. Department of Chemistry - Dr. W.A. Baker, Jr., Chairman.

Dr. Baker indicated that most of his Ph.D.'s took a postdoctoral fellowship and joined university staffs. He said that a total of 2 to 3 Ph.D.'s graduated each year in physical and analytical chemistry. Direct communication regarding requirements will be received with pleasure by Dr. Baker and he said that he would draw the attention of his students to any post that was available in Canada. In view of the small numbers involved, it is not likely that many candidates for the Civil Service will be forthcoming from this department.

4. Dept. of Physics - Dr. Nathan Ginsburg, Chairman.

The fields of theoretical physics, lattice dynamics, NMR, ESR, ion field emission, biophysics and nuclear physics are actively pursued. Dr. Ginsburg mentioned a Dr. Max Loewenstein, who was a postdoctoral fellow, as a possibility for a position involving spin resonance. He will be available next fall. Dr. Ginsburg also recommended a Mr. Peter Millet as a capable theoretical physicist.

This department might be a useful contact for graduates in the above fields of specialization.

5. Dept. of Geology - Dr. J.R. Kramer.

Dr. Kramer was formerly at the University of Western Ontario and is engaged in a study of the chemistry of the water in Lake Ontario. He listed the following people who should be contacted if positions in this field were open in Canada.

Jeffrey C. Sutherland, graduate student, Department of Geology, Syracuse University.

John Pazzetta, (A Canadian) graduate student, Department of Geology, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dr. Werner Stumm, Harvard University.

Dr. M.L. Jackson, University of Wisconsin.

Dr. R.M. Garrles, Northwestern University.

Dr. E.D. Goldberg, Scrips Oceanographic Institute.

Dr. Kramer also pointed out that summer field work was very scarce for geologists in the United States and that a program to employ

promising students from U.S. universities in the Geological Survey of Canada might prove beneficial as far as recruiting is concerned.

6. Dept. of Geography - Dr. John Thompson.

Dr. Thompson said that all the Ph.D. graduates from this department were placed by personal contact and that at present the demand in the U.S. for Ph.D. geographers was high. He suggested that if the Canadian Civil Service has a requirement in this field, details of the positions should be forwarded to the head of the Geography Department who would pass the information on to the students. This department graduates 8 to 10 people per year with M.Sc. or Ph.D. degrees.

7. Solid State Science and Technology - Dr. Hao Liu.

In the absence of Dr. V. Weiss, Dr. Liu was contacted regarding one of the students interviewed at the placement centre. This department has been functioning for only 2 years and is not yet producing graduates of interest to the Civil Service of Canada.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All members of the university staff contacted were most co-operative and interested in the positions available in the Canadian Civil Service, and indicated their willingness to call these to the attention of their students.

In order to ensure the success of such a recruiting trip, every candidate and department of interest should be contacted in advance, with the job requirement clearly defined.

2. In certain disciplines it is undoubtedly possible to compete with opportunities in the United States, but in the physical sciences it appears that the starting salary differential will be hard to overcome. One selling point is the Research Scientist series of progression which permits advancement without administrative blocks or responsibilities.

3. Future recruiting at Syracuse University can probably be done efficiently by mail, to establish whether or not there are students who would consider employment in the Canadian Civil Service. Depending upon the responses, individuals could be brought to the job for interview or, if the numbers warrant it, a team could be sent down as in the present case.

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